



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7271**

January Session, 2017

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB07271ED\_\_\_\_\_032717\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL  
HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a state-  
4 wide system of technical high schools to be known as the technical  
5 high school system. The technical high school system shall be  
6 governed by a board that shall consist of [eleven] seventeen members  
7 as follows: (1) Four executives of Connecticut-based employers who  
8 shall be nominated by the Connecticut Employment and Training  
9 Commission established pursuant to section 31-3h, and appointed by  
10 the Governor, (2) five members appointed by the State Board of  
11 Education, (3) the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
12 Development, [and] (4) the Labor Commissioner, and (5) six members,  
13 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one  
14 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one appointed  
15 by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed  
16 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed  
17 by the majority leader of the Senate, and one appointed by the  
18 minority leader of the Senate. The Governor shall appoint the  
19 chairperson. The chairperson of the technical high school system board

20 shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the State Board of  
21 Education.

22 (b) The technical high school system board shall offer full-time, part-  
23 time and evening programs in vocational, technical and technological  
24 education and training. The board may make [regulations] policies  
25 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The  
26 [Commissioner of Education] superintendent of the technical high  
27 school system, in accordance with policies established by the board,  
28 may [appoint] hire, within available resources and without the  
29 approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and  
30 remove members of the staffs of such schools and make rules for the  
31 management of and expend the funds provided for the support of such  
32 schools. The board may enter into cooperative arrangements with local  
33 and regional boards of education, private occupational schools,  
34 institutions of higher education, job training agencies and employers in  
35 order to provide general education, vocational, technical or  
36 technological education or work experience.

37 (c) The board [and the Commissioner of Education] shall [jointly]  
38 recommend a candidate for superintendent of the technical high school  
39 system who shall be appointed as superintendent by the [State Board  
40 of Education] Governor. Such superintendent shall be responsible for  
41 the operation and administration of the technical high school system.

42 (d) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a  
43 technical high school on probation or otherwise notifies the  
44 superintendent of the technical high school system that a technical  
45 high school is at risk of losing its accreditation, the [Commissioner of  
46 Education] superintendent of the technical high school system, on  
47 behalf of the technical high school system board, shall notify the joint  
48 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
49 matters relating to education of such placement or problems relating to  
50 accreditation.

51 (e) The technical high school system board shall establish specific

52 achievement goals for students at the technical high schools at each  
53 grade level. The board shall measure the performance of each technical  
54 high school and shall identify a set of quantifiable measures to be used.  
55 The measures shall include factors such as the performance of students  
56 in grade ten or eleven on the mastery examination, under section 10-  
57 14n, trade-related assessment tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

58 Sec. 2. Section 10-95 of the general statutes, as amended by section 1  
59 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
60 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

61 (a) [The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a  
62 state-wide system of technical high schools to be known as the  
63 technical high school system.] There is established a state-wide system  
64 of technical high schools to be known as the Technical High School  
65 System. The system shall offer full-time, part-time and evening  
66 programs in vocational, technical and technological education and  
67 training. The [technical high school] system shall be governed by [a  
68 board] the Technical High School System Board that shall consist of  
69 seventeen members as follows: (1) Four executives of Connecticut-  
70 based employers who shall be nominated by the Connecticut  
71 Employment and Training Commission established pursuant to  
72 section 31-3h, and appointed by the Governor, (2) five members  
73 appointed by the State Board of Education, (3) the Commissioner of  
74 Economic and Community Development, (4) the Labor Commissioner,  
75 and (5) six members, one appointed by the speaker of the House of  
76 Representatives, one appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
77 Senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
78 Representatives, one appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
79 Representatives, one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,  
80 and one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. The Governor  
81 shall appoint the chairperson. The chairperson of the [technical high  
82 school system board] Technical High School System Board shall serve  
83 as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the State Board of Education.

84 (b) [The technical high school system board shall offer full-time,

85 part-time and evening programs in vocational, technical and  
86 technological education and training. The board may make policies  
87 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The  
88 superintendent of the technical high school system, in accordance with  
89 policies established by the board, may hire, within available resources  
90 and without the approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
91 Management, and remove members of the staffs of such schools and  
92 make rules for the management of and expend the funds provided for  
93 the support of such schools.] The Technical High School System Board  
94 shall organize the Technical High School System into such bureaus,  
95 divisions and other units as may be necessary for the efficient conduct  
96 of the business of the system, and may, from time to time, create,  
97 abolish, transfer or consolidate within the system any bureau, division  
98 or other unit as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the  
99 business of the board. The board may create any advisory boards or  
100 appoint any committees as it deems necessary for the efficient conduct  
101 of the business of the system. The board may appoint, and may  
102 prescribe the duties of any subordinates, agents and employees as it  
103 finds necessary in the conduct of its business. The board may enter  
104 into cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of  
105 education, private occupational schools, institutions of higher  
106 education, job training agencies and employers in order to provide  
107 general education, vocational, technical or technological education or  
108 work experience. The board may accept gifts, grants and donations on  
109 behalf of the system, including, but not limited to, in-kind donations,  
110 designated for the purchase of equipment or materials, the hiring of  
111 teachers at a technical high school or the acquisition of real property  
112 and construction of facilities.

113 (c) The board shall recommend a candidate for [superintendent of  
114 the technical high school system] Superintendent of the Technical High  
115 School System who shall be appointed as superintendent by the  
116 Governor, [Such] in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to  
117 4-7, inclusive. The superintendent shall serve a term of four years to be  
118 coterminous with the term of the Governor. The superintendent shall

119 be the administrative officer of the system and shall be responsible for  
120 the operation and administration of the technical high school system in  
121 accordance with the policies established by the board, and may hire,  
122 within available resources and without the approval of the Secretary of  
123 the Office of Policy and Management, and terminate the employment  
124 of members of the staffs of technical high schools and make rules for  
125 the management of and expend the funds provided for the support of  
126 the system and technical high schools. The superintendent shall serve  
127 as secretary to the board and the superintendent may appoint assistant  
128 superintendents, provided neither the superintendent nor any  
129 assistant superintendent shall be a member of the board. The  
130 superintendent shall record all acts of the board and certify the same to  
131 all concerned and shall be the custodian of its records and papers; shall  
132 prepare such routine business for presentation to said board as may be  
133 necessary or advisable; shall compile and publish, under the direction  
134 of the board, all policies and acts which may be required and shall  
135 perform such duties as the board prescribes.

136 (d) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a  
137 technical high school on probation or otherwise notifies the  
138 superintendent [of the technical high school system] that a technical  
139 high school is at risk of losing its accreditation, the superintendent, [of  
140 the technical high school system,] on behalf of the [technical high  
141 school system] board, shall notify the joint standing committee of the  
142 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
143 of such placement or problems relating to accreditation.

144 (e) The board may make policies controlling the admission of  
145 students to any technical high school. The [technical high school  
146 system] board shall establish specific achievement goals for students at  
147 the technical high schools at each grade level. The board shall measure  
148 the performance of each technical high school and shall identify a set  
149 of quantifiable measures to be used. The measures shall include factors  
150 such as the performance of students in grade ten or eleven on the  
151 mastery examination, under section 10-14n, trade-related assessment

152 tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

153 Sec. 3. Section 10-99f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
154 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

155 (a) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2011, [and each fiscal  
156 year thereafter] to June 30, 2019, inclusive, the budget for the technical  
157 high school system shall be a separate budgeted agency from the  
158 Department of Education.

159 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
160 Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force  
161 concerning the technical high school system.

162 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the fiscal year ending  
163 June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, the budget for the  
164 technical high school system shall be a separate budgeted agency.

165 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
166 appropriations recommended for the Technical High School System  
167 shall be the estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the  
168 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management by the Technical  
169 High School System Board and the recommended adjustments and  
170 revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and  
171 revisions, if any, transmitted by said board to the Office of Policy and  
172 Management.

173 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the  
174 Governor shall not reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force  
175 concerning the Technical High School System.

176 Sec. 5. Section 10-99g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

178 (a) (1) [Each] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal  
179 year thereafter, each technical high school shall prepare a proposed  
180 operating budget for the next succeeding school year beginning July

181 first and submit such proposed operating budget to the  
182 [superintendent of the technical high school system] Technical High  
183 School System Board. Such proposed operating budget shall include a  
184 statement of the staffing needs for such technical high school. The  
185 [superintendent] board may consult with the superintendent and shall  
186 collect, review and use the proposed operating budget for each  
187 technical high school to guide the preparation of [a proposed  
188 operating] the budget for the [technical high school system] Technical  
189 High School System.

190 (2) [The superintendent of the technical high school system shall  
191 submit a proposed operating budget for the technical high school  
192 system to the technical high school system board. Such proposed  
193 operating budget shall include a statement of the staffing needs for the  
194 technical high school system.] The board shall [review, amend and  
195 approve such proposed operating budget and] submit the [approved]  
196 budget to [the State Board of Education. The state board shall review,  
197 but shall not amend, and submit such approved operating budget,  
198 with any comments or recommendations for revisions, to the Secretary  
199 of] the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with the  
200 provisions of section 4-77. The [superintendent] board shall submit a  
201 copy of (A) [the proposed operating budgets] an itemized operating  
202 budget for each technical high school, including the statement of the  
203 staffing needs for each technical high school, and (B) the [proposed  
204 operating] budget for the [technical high school] system, including the  
205 statement of the staffing needs for the [technical high school system,  
206 and (C) the approved operating budget for the technical high school]  
207 system to the [Office of Policy and Management and the] joint  
208 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
209 matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of  
210 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. [The  
211 superintendent shall communicate directly with the Secretary of the  
212 Office of Policy and Management regarding the creation or filling of  
213 staff positions included in the approved operating budget for the  
214 technical high school system.]

215 (b) The [superintendent of the technical high school system] board  
216 shall semiannually submit the operating budget and expenses for each  
217 individual technical high school, in accordance with section 11-4a, to  
218 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the director of  
219 the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis and to the joint standing  
220 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
221 relating to education.

222 (c) The superintendent [of the technical high school system] shall  
223 make available and update on the [technical high school system]  
224 Technical High School System Internet web site and the Internet web  
225 site of each technical high school the operating budget for the current  
226 school year of each individual technical high school.

227 Sec. 6. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-95h of the  
228 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
229 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

230 (2) The superintendent of the technical high school system shall  
231 submit the following to the joint standing committees of the General  
232 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, higher  
233 education and employment advancement and labor: (A) Information  
234 ensuring that the curriculum of the technical high school system is  
235 incorporating those workforce skills that will be needed for the next  
236 thirty years, as identified by the Labor Commissioner in subdivision  
237 (1) of this subsection, into the technical high schools; (B) information  
238 regarding the employment status of students who graduate from or  
239 complete an approved program of study at the technical high school  
240 system, including, but not limited to: (i) Demographics such as age and  
241 gender, (ii) course and program enrollment and completion, (iii)  
242 employment status, and (iv) wages prior to enrolling and after  
243 graduating; (C) an assessment of the adequacy of the resources  
244 available to the technical high school system as the system develops  
245 and refines programs to meet existing and emerging workforce needs;  
246 (D) recommendations to the technical high school system board to  
247 carry out the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this



248 subdivision; [and] (E) information regarding staffing at each technical  
249 high school for the current academic year; and (F) information  
250 regarding the transition process of the technical high school system as  
251 an independent agency, including, but not limited to, the actions taken  
252 by the technical high school system board and the superintendent to  
253 create a budget process and maintain programmatic consistency for  
254 students enrolled in the technical high school system. The  
255 superintendent of the technical high school system shall collaborate  
256 with the Labor Commissioner to obtain information as needed to carry  
257 out the provisions of this subsection.

258 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) The superintendent of the  
259 technical high school system shall consult with any local or regional  
260 boards of education for a town in which a technical high school is  
261 located and that offers any career and technical education programs,  
262 for the purpose of reducing redundancies and consolidating  
263 programmatic offerings.

264 Sec. 8. Section 4-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

266 As used in sections 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8, the term "department head"  
267 means Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,  
268 Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner on Aging,  
269 Commissioner of Revenue Services, Banking Commissioner,  
270 Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner of Consumer  
271 Protection, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Economic  
272 and Community Development, State Board of Education,  
273 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
274 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,  
275 Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Public Health,  
276 Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of  
277 Mental Health and Addiction Services, Commissioner of Social  
278 Services, Commissioner of Developmental Services, Commissioner of  
279 Motor Vehicles, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of  
280 Veterans Affairs, Commissioner of Housing, Commissioner of

281 Rehabilitation Services, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, [and]  
 282 the executive director of the Office of Military Affairs and the  
 283 Technical High School System Board. As used in sections 4-6 and 4-7,  
 284 "department head" also means the Commissioner of Education and the  
 285 Superintendent of the Technical High School System.

286 Sec. 9. Section 4-38c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 287 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

288 There shall be within the executive branch of state government the  
 289 following departments: Office of Policy and Management, Department  
 290 of Administrative Services, Department on Aging, Department of  
 291 Revenue Services, Department of Banking, Department of Agriculture,  
 292 Department of Children and Families, Department of Consumer  
 293 Protection, Department of Correction, Department of Economic and  
 294 Community Development, State Board of Education, Department of  
 295 Emergency Services and Public Protection, Department of Energy and  
 296 Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Board of  
 297 Regents for Higher Education, Insurance Department, Labor  
 298 Department, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
 299 Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services,  
 300 Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, [and]  
 301 Department of Veterans Affairs and the Technical High School System.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-95
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-99f
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-99g
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-95h(b)(2)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	4-5
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	4-38c

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*